

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Teen Worker Safety Day

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor our teenage workers for their many contributions to the vitality and strength of our working community; and

WHEREAS, the Occupation Safety and Health Act requires that employers provide a safe and healthful work environment and comply with occupational safety and health standards; and

WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires employers to develop a safety and health program to help prevent workplace injuries; and

WHEREAS, a strong safety and health program involves all workers, supervisors and management; and

WHEREAS, training is required to ensure that young workers recognize hazards and are competent in safe work practices; and training should include prevention of fires, accidents, violent situations, and what to do if injured; and young workers need to know that if they get injured, they have the right to file a claim to cover their medical benefits and some of their lost work time; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, every 5 days one teen worker is killed on the job and more than 200,000 young workers are injured yearly; and

WHEREAS, the injury and illness rates of young workers are double and sometimes triple that for any other age category; and

WHEREAS, employers stressing job safety, particularly among first-line supervisors, have the greatest opportunity to influence young workers and their work habits, and help prepare them for a safe and prosperous future in their chosen careers; and

WHEREAS, safe and healthy young workers provide a stable and secure pool for a skilled and educated workforce; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2012 as Teen Worker Safety Day in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this _/o⁷⁶ day of April, 2012

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis Secretary of State